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Westford Fatal Fire Ruled Unintentional

Deputy State Fire Marshal Thomas P. Leonard, Westford Fire Chief Richard Rochon and Westford Police Chief Robert Welch announced that their joint investigation into the March 28, 2007 fatal fire at 10 Beacon Street, Westford has ruled the fire was unintentional.

Investigators determined the fire started in the first floor living room. They have been able to rule out arson as a possible cause. The team has systematically eliminated all but two possible ignition scenarios. The improper disposal of smoking materials and an electrical malfunction are the two most probable ignition scenarios. The fire will officially remain accidental but undetermined.

Chief Rochon said, "This is a sad day for Westford, for our firefighters and for the extended family that lived at 10 Beacon Street." He added, "This is the first, and I hope last, fatal fire during my tenure as fire chief. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the family."

The fire tragically took the life of a young woman and we are waiting for official confirmation of her identify from the Medical Examiner's Office.

Chief Rochon said, "Smoke alarms worked in the building which may have helped the other residents escape safely."

The fire was jointly investigated by the Westford Fire Department, the Westford Police Department, State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, State Police assigned to the Middlesex District Attorney's Office and State Police Crime Scene Services.

Deputy Leonard said, "This is the 24th fire death in Massachusetts so far this year, which is above both the five- and ten-year averages for the end of the March – 15 and 19." He added, "It is important to make sure your smoke alarms are working and to hold fire drills at home."